

Sudanese government to swear in today

KHARTOUM (R) — The swearing-in of a new 23-member cabinet in Sudan has been postponed for 24 hours. Supreme Council Member Ali Hassan Taha died Friday. Prime Minister Sadiq Al Mahdi formed the new coalition after a four-week dispute with the army which wanted more hacking for its war effort in south Sudan or peace with anti-government rebels there. He has submitted a list of ministers to the five-member Supreme Council. Sudan's collective presidency, Taha died, told reporters gathered at the presidential palace for the scheduled ceremony that there were no last-minute differences preventing the swearing-in ceremony going ahead. He gave no reason for the delay except to say that head of state Ahmad Al Ali Mirghani was feeling unwell. "The Supreme Council will meet and the ministers will be sworn in at noon," he said. Mahdi has said the new coalition, including his Umma Party, the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP), southern Sudanese parties, Communists and trade union representatives, will be dedicated to peace. The National Islamic Front (NIF), the third largest party, is boycotting the government on the grounds that it is not committed to implementing Islamic Sharia Laws.

Jordan Times

An independent newspaper published weekly by Jordan Times Foundation
بالإنجليزية عن جريدة الأردنية الرأي

King Fahd to visit Egypt, Iraq

CAIRO (R) — Saudi Arabia's King Fahd plunges into the heart of Middle East politics and diplomacy when he sets out Saturday for a six-day visit to Iraq and Egypt. The trip — his first as Monarch to the two countries — takes on particular significance at a time of Egypt's reintegration into the Arab World and the emergence of a Baghdad-Cairo diplomatic and economic axis. Saudi Arabia was a strong diplomatic and financial supporter of Iraq during its eight-year war with Iran. An Arab diplomat in Baghdad said the main topic there would be the situation in the Gulf and the deadlock in peace talks since last August's ceasefire in the war with Iran. King Fahd and Iraq's President Saddam Hussein were also expected to discuss newly emerging economic blocs on the region, and possibly Saudi efforts to mediate between Iraq and Syria. For Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak, the king's hacking will provide welcome diplomatic clout when Mubarak visits Washington next month to discuss the Middle East with the new Bush administration. "The visit to Egypt should help Mubarak inject more meaning into his relations with Washington in terms of Middle East peace," said Salama Ahmad Salama, managing editor of Egypt's semi-official Al Ahram newspaper.

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Jordan shelves Tornado deal



AMMAN (R) — Jordan said Thursday it had shelved plans to buy Tornado fighter aircraft from Britain.

Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, who is also defence minister, told Reuters the £400-million (\$690-million) deal had been postponed until Jordan's finances improved.

"We recently informed the British government that we would like to postpone negotiations on the purchase of the Tornados due to the current financial situation we are facing," he said. "The British government understood and accepted."

Rifai said Jordan was proceeding with a contract signed last year for 12 French-built Mirage 2000 jets, but had not yet taken up an option to buy eight more.

He dismissed as nonsense allegations in Britain's Observer newspaper that commissions might have been paid to secure the Tornado deal, which was signed in September.

"It's stupid to talk of commissions being paid because there is no deal," he said. "The Jordanian government was negotiating

and bought some Soviet anti-aircraft equipment after the U.S. Congress blocked a \$1.9-billion sale of F-16s and other weapons in early 1986.

Israel's supporters in Congress opposed the sale on the grounds that Jordan was still at war with the Jewish state.

Jordanian bankers welcomed the move to postpone the Tornado purchase, saying it would save valuable foreign exchange.

"We are very happy to hear that. It means less external debt and that is good for the country," one banker said.

"It's excellent news," said another banker. "It's a wise and realistic decision."

A Jordanian official stressed that postponement did not mean cancellation and said Amman retained an option to buy.

"The government will remain determined to keep modernising its air force," said the official, who asked not to be named. "While we believe our country needs to develop its air defence capabilities, there are other urgent priorities at present."

Aoun rejects ceasefire; U.S. withdraws assistance team

BEIRUT (AP) — Lebanese army commander Gen. Michel Aoun refused to accept a ceasefire Friday in the 17-day conflict with Syrian troops and Druze militiamen, saying he would not settle for "anything less than Syrian withdrawal from Lebanon."

The two sides started firing at each other Friday afternoon after a 14-hour lull, but police had no immediate reports of casualties or damage.

Fighting so far has killed 81 people and wounded 253.

The American embassy announced Friday it was pulling out a three-man "technical assistance team" because of the violence.

PLO-Israel talks inevitable

TUNIS (R) — A Swedish minister said Friday that talks between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) were inevitable.

"If the Soviets and the (Afghan) Mujahedeen sit down, if Iran and Iraq sit down, why should not the Israelis and the PLO sit down? Of course they will," Deputy Foreign Minister Pierre Schori told reporters.

"I'm not sure that time is working for (Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak) Shamir," he added. "There are cracks in the wall. Shamir must now practice persistence, the PLO have done it."

Schori, who met PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat and U.S.

Aoun held talks with Kuwait's ambassador to Syria, Ahmad Al Jassem. The Kuwaiti envoy told reporters the two discussed "a ceasefire and a solution to the present confrontation."

The U.S. embassy source, speaking on condition of anonymity, said one of the three Americans is already out of Lebanon on vacation.

Aoun, dressed in camouflage fatigues, told the press that the confrontation pitting his 20,000 troops against the alliance of Syrian army gunners and Druze warlord Walid Jumblatt's Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) militia.

The 75-minute news conference at the presidential palace in suburban Baabda was held after

Aoun held talks with Kuwait's ambassador to Syria, Ahmad Al Jassem. The Kuwaiti envoy told reporters the two discussed "a ceasefire and a solution to the present confrontation."

The U.S. embassy source, speaking on condition of anonymity, said one of the three Americans is already out of Lebanon on vacation.

Pelletreau led the U.S. team in talks with the PLO in Tunis last Wednesday. It was the first substantial session in the dialogue since the Bush administration took office.

Schori, whose country mediated between Washington and the PLO to make the dialogue possible, said both sides were "equally pleased with the nature of the talks."

He described the U.S. decision to meet the PLO and Washington's subsequent statements as a

qualitative change.

"They (the Americans) are now telling the Israelis that sooner or later they must talk to the PLO. They have to sit down, they have to negotiate," he added.

In public, U.S. officials have said only that Israel might have to talk to the PLO if it cannot find any non-PLO Palestinian negotiating partners in the occupied territories.

Schori said Swedish Foreign Minister Sten Andersson had sent Arafat a message with some ideas for confidence-building measures towards a Middle East peace settlement. He expected Arafat to reply soon.

Bush praises talks with PLO

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — President George Bush praised U.S. talks with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) in an interview published Friday and said he would try to convince Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir "something good might come out of this kind of discussion."

"I will tell him that the talks that we... are having with the PLO representatives there in Tunisia are good things, and we'll tell him why I think they are good things," Bush said in the interview with the Washington Times.

Bush is scheduled to meet with Shamir, who refuses to speak with PLO representatives, in Washington April 6.

Asked whether he would urge Shamir to join the talks with the PLO, Bush told the newspaper, "I don't know what I'll say to him about that."

"But I'll say to him that we have got to move the peace process forward. We may, by then, be ready with some specific ideas."

Shamir, in an interview broadcast Friday on the NBC "Today" programme on the 10th anniversary of the peace treaty between Israel and Egypt, reiterated his stand against such talks with the PLO.

"It's not a question of talks," he said. "... For us it's a question of life, a question of existence. The State of Israel will not be able to exist together with a Palestinian state here in this small country."

Shamir called for Palestinians on the West Bank to forsake the idea of a separate state.

"I am convinced that the majority of the Palestinian Arabs

will come to this conviction that they have to live in peace with us, and that the only way to live together with us is to negotiate, to talk in order to achieve some peaceful solutions. And the time will come for it," he said. "We are ready."

But former Israeli Defence Minister Ezer Weizman, now the country's science minister, said on ABC's "Good Morning America" he is convinced "that we have to talk to (PLO Chairman Yasser) Arafat."

Reminded that the Israeli electorate has rejected such negotiations, Weizman said that with "correct leadership" and "an honest way of putting an issue, you can change the views and opinions of the electorate."

Former President Jimmy Carter, who brought about the peace treaty, said on the ABC programme that there should be negotiations with Arafat ultimately.

But, he added, "I think the first step will have to be direct talks between the Israelis and Palestinian leaders chosen in the West Bank and Gaza who have the full support and public endorsement of the PLO, including Arafat."

In Tunis Wednesday, U.S. and PLO representatives held their first meeting since Bush became president.

Arafat said Thursday that the 4½-hour meeting between U.S. Ambassador Robert H. Pelletreau and Yasser Abed Rabbo of the PLO Executive Committee was positive.

"There is a mutual interest and intention to lead this dialogue to success," Arafat said.

Bush took that view in the

interview, saying that in his meeting with Shamir "I will endeavour to convince the prime minister that something good might come out of this kind of discussion."

The Tunis meeting was the second formal meeting since talks began in December, after Arafat publicly renounced terrorism and recognised Israel's right to exist.

There was no indication whether a third meeting was scheduled, but the PLO chief's mood suggested the dialogue will continue.

Arafat confirmed reports from U.S. sources that Pelletreau had not asked for an end to the Palestinian uprising. He also said the U.S. team described commando operations from Lebanon as an escalation of the military situation, not as terrorism.

"Nobody can make such a request to me (on ending the uprising). No one can ask a people to stop resisting occupation," he said.

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Battle intensifies for Kabul- Jalalabad road

PESHAWAR (R) — Afghan rebels said Friday they had repulsed an attempt by government troops to reopen the road from Kabul to the besieged city of Jalalabad.

Rebel sources in neighbouring Pakistan said that a government force came down the road from the town of Sorobi Thursday, backed by a helicopter bombardment.

The rebels shot down one helicopter and killed three soldiers, the sources said, citing radio reports from the area. They also blew up a bridge, the second in recent days.

Independent confirmation was not available. President Najibullah's government and the West-backed rebels routinely dispute each other's reports of the fighting.

A Soviet newspaper said Thursday a supply column had failed to reach Jalalabad from Kabul, because the rebels had blown up bridges on the 140-kilometre road.

But an Afghan government spokesman said supplies are still getting through to the battle-scarred eastern city.

Spokesman Mohammad Nabi Amani said the Mujahideen rebels trying to capture Jalalabad had sabotaged the bridge near Sorobi, about 60 kilometres east of the capital, under cover of darkness Tuesday.

Rebels were under way and the main road was still cut, but the armed forces had rigged up a temporary bridge and two supply columns had reached Jalalabad, he said.

Amani also insisted that supply columns were getting through to Kabul down the vital Salang highway from the Soviet border.

Prices in the bazaars appeared to bear him out, with Soviet-supplied bread and petrol stable

but oranges, which come mainly from Jalalabad, dearer at 130 Afghanis (\$0.65) a kilogramme against 100 (\$0.50) a few days ago.

Despite the optimistic tone of his briefing, Amani spoke of eight provinces, mainly in the south and southeast, which had suffered guerrilla activity in recent days. But he gave no details.

He said government forces around Jalalabad were standing their ground but not advancing towards border areas so as not to give "a pretext to the Pakistani warmongers to escalate their interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan."

Despite Pakistani denials,

Kabul says the 11th, 17th and 18th divisions of the Pakistan army are actively involved in the Jalalabad battle.

Fighting was continuing around the provincial capital but at a less intense level than earlier this month, the sources said.

The battle for Jalalabad, the first major engagement since the last Soviet troops pulled out in mid-February, is widely seen as something of a test of credibility for both sides in Afghanistan's savage civil war.

Meanwhile Najibullah's government called on Western and other countries to send back to Kabul the diplomats evacuated on security grounds.



Turgut Ozal

Ozal struggles to maintain support

ANKARA (R) — Turkey's reformist Prime Minister Turgut Ozal is battling to maintain popular support in municipal elections Sunday likely to decide his political future.

The poll for mayors and assemblies in 2,000 cities and towns is a major test for the 261-year-old conservative leader, who has said he may consider leaving office depending on its results.

Opinion polls suggest Ozal, Turkey's dominant politician since army rule in 1980-83 crushed extremist political violence, may take less than a third of the vote and lose some power centres.

Sources of his Motherland Party said Ozal was likely to drop aspirations to succeed President Kenan Evren, who as a general led the 1980 coup, later this year if its share of the vote fell below 36 per cent.

"I have promised the people to run the country until 1992," Ozal, an economic free-marketeer who says Turkey's future is with the West, told the mass-circulation daily Hurriyet.

"But if in this election certain mistakes are made... making it difficult for us to carry on, I will seriously consider leaving my post," he was quoted Thursday as saying.

Ozal, who swept back to office in 1987 with 292 of the 450 seats in parliament on 36 per cent of the vote, made a similar threat last September before he lost a referendum on bringing forward the local polls with 35 per cent of the vote.

"If Ozal gets under 32 per cent he will face serious party challenges. He is not as invulnerable as a year ago and has isolated himself in the party," a senior Western diplomat said.

"He is running increasingly to his family as main advisers and he is not getting good advice."

In a campaign marked by charges of economic mismanagement amid an annual inflation rate of 72 per cent, Ozal portrayed his party as the only democratic option for stability in North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO)-member Turkey which borders the Soviet Union, Bulgaria, Iran, Iraq and Syria.

"Votes that you divide among opposition parties will benefit separatists and anarchist-seekers. Do not turn local governments into places that can nourish anarchists," he said on television.

The opposition says the local elections are as a confidence vote in Ozal.

Erdal Inoni, head of the Social Democratic Populist Party (SHP), told a rally: "Our citizens can suffer more crises but those who created the present crisis should also suffer."

A poll in the popular daily Bugun said Ozal was likely to win 31.6 per cent of the vote, with SHP taking 30.9 per cent, the centre-right True Path Party 21 per cent and the rest split among minor parties.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

S. Yemen floods damage houses, crops

SANAA (R) — Floods in South Yemen have destroyed houses and crops and cut off water and electricity supplies, Aden Radio reported Thursday. The radio, monitored in North Yemen, said more rains were feared in flood-hit Hadramaut Province. It reported from the coastal town of Al Sihr, 575 kilometres east of Aden, that rain had fallen continuously for the past two days, destroying 64 houses and damaging 140 others. South Yemen President Haider Abubaker Al Attas had formed an emergency relief committee to coordinate national and international assistance to rebuild damaged villages and towns, the radio said. No estimate of the total damage in South Yemen, one of the world's poorest countries, was immediately available, but the radio said the floods had ruined crops and government food storage areas and killed hundreds of farm animals.

U.S. team in Iraq for compensation

BAGHDAD (R) — A U.S. delegation started talks in Baghdad Thursday on compensation for families of 37 sailors killed when an Iraqi warplane attacked the American frigate Stark in the Gulf in 1987. The Iraqi News Agency (INA) said a State Department delegation led by legal adviser Abraham Sofer had arrived and met Iraqi foreign ministry officials, but it gave no details. Washington said earlier Sofer would press for compensation promised by Baghdad for the air attack on the Stark with two Exocet missiles in May 1987. Baghdad said the raid was carried out by mistake. The U.S. government asked Iraq last April to pay each victim's family \$800,000. No money has been paid.

Ex-S. Yemen leader issues warning

DAMASCUS (R) — Former South Yemeni leader Ali Nasser Mohammad, overthrown in bitter fighting three years ago, warned Thursday that violence could erupt again unless the government allowed refugees to return. "I hope they (the government) will respond positively because this would save the country more bloodshed and destruction," he told Reuters in the Syrian capital. Nasser Mohammad said 100,000 refugees fled with him to North Yemen or to other Arab countries and should be allowed back. South Yemen said this month it would allow more than 30,000 refugees to return from North Yemen. Nasser Mohammad said that if all the other refugees were allowed back he would accept President Haider Abubaker Al Attas's refusal to let him return. "I will be pleased to live as an ordinary citizen under the shade of unity between North and South Yemen after achieving stability for all Yemeni people," he said. North and South Yemen have been discussing possible unification since 1972.

Soviet defence minister to visit Syria

DAMASCUS (R) — Soviet Defence Minister General Dmitri Yazov will visit Syria Monday to discuss military cooperation, diplomats said Thursday. The Soviet Union is Syria's main source of arms and the diplomats said Yazov's trip was at the invitation of Defence Minister Major-General Mustafa Tlas. Polish Defence Minister General Florian Siwicki held talks with President Hafez Al Assad in Damascus Thursday, officials said. Siwicki, who arrived in Syria Sunday, has also held two sessions of talks with Tlas and visited an air force base where he met pilots and was briefed on training.

Irish chief to visit Lebanon after deaths

DUBLIN (R) — Ireland's army chief of staff has been ordered to go to South Lebanon to assess the safety of Irish peace-keeping troops there after three were killed by a landmine. Defence Minister Michael Noonan asked Lieutenant-General Tadh O'Neill to prepare a report for the cabinet on the safety of the 600 Irish troops serving with the U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL). "He leaves this weekend to make an on-the-spot assessment," a Defence Ministry spokesman said Thursday. The three soldiers were killed Tuesday when their truck ran over a landmine near Israel's self-declared security zone. The incident took to 30 the number of Irish soldiers killed since the nine-nation UNIFIL force was deployed in 1978.

U.S. seeks extradition of Lebanese

BERNE (R) — The United States is seeking the extradition of two Lebanese brothers indicted by U.S. courts on drugs and money-laundering charges, the Swiss Justice Ministry said Thursday. Switzerland ordered Jean and Barkev Magharian to be detained pending possible extradition proceedings following a request from the U.S. embassy, a ministry spokesman said. The order has little immediate effect because the brothers have been held in investigative custody in the Swiss canton of Ticino since last July while investigators probe into Switzerland's biggest drugs and money-laundering scandal. The scandal has already ended the careers of a justice minister and the country's chief public prosecutor. "The order will take immediate effect if a Swiss court releases the brother," the spokesman told Reuters. The United States would then have 60 days in which to make a formal extradition request.

Ethiopian government recaptures town

ADDIS ABABA (R) — The Ethiopian government has announced the recapture of Adi Quala, a town in Eritrea province which was briefly overrun by rebel forces. The official Ethiopian News Agency (ENA) said Thursday night that government soldiers and militiamen recaptured the town, 86 kilometres south of the Eritrean provincial capital Asmara Monday, inflicting heavy losses on the rebels. ENA said Adi Quala, which lies on the main road from Asmara to the rebel-held towns of Adwa and Axum in neighbouring Tigray province, had been attacked by a joint force of rebels from the Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF) and the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF). The agency gave no details of casualties in the fighting, but it accused the rebels of plundering public property and sabotaging the Adi Quala's electricity and telephone services during their brief surge into the town. The EPLF said last week that its forces captured Adi Quala March 16, capturing 3,000 government militia men and shooting down a MiG-23 air force fighter bomber.

Middle East battles heroin 'monkey'

DUBAI (R) — Middle East countries, finding the heroin "monkey" on their own backs, are demanding concerted moves to seal drug routes through the region and halt growing addiction among their people.

Drug enforcement officers at a 16-nation conference in Dubai said only international cooperation could block a flood of drugs from poppy fields in the "Golden Crescent" — a poorly-policed swath of territory spanning the borders of Pakistan, Afghanistan and Iran.

"Up until the 1980s, we had no heroin problem here. No one knew the meaning of heroin. Now we have a major problem," said Dubai chief of detectives Abdul Aziz Mohammad Abdallah.

The threat is also coming the other way as South American cocaine barons are creating a new market in the Middle East. "A year ago, there were vir-

tually no cocaine seizures here. Now there is a kilo here, a kilo there," Mel Schabillon, special agent at the U.S. Department of Justice said.

The conference brought together heads of narcotics bureaus from such countries as the United States, Pakistan, Thailand and the Gulf states. Iran did not attend the meeting, which was held under the auspices of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration.

Delegates pinpointed the 10-year-old war in Afghanistan as a major factor in the rising trade.

Anarchy in the region after the Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan in 1979 made policing more difficult in an area already renowned for its uncontrollable tribes, they said.

No one accurately knows how many acres such traditional farmers have in poppies, the flowers from which heroin is

made. An explosion in arms supplies gave traffickers a new arsenal of automatics, rocket launchers, and even light artillery.

Old clandestine drug routes through Iran, Turkey, Pakistan, and India were rapidly expanded to carry the narcotics, helping turn millions of people in these nations into addicts on the way.

Iranian officials estimate one million people out of their 50 million population are drug addicts. Iran has executed more than 300 traffickers so far this year and arrested several thousand.

The crackdown since January has forced smugglers to turn to other routes and ports around the Gulf are dangerous exposed.

"Drug trade is like water, it always looks to flow through the point of least resistance," said Schabillon.



A farmer might make \$400 profit from growing enough poppies to make one kilo of heroin. When it is smuggled into the United States, for example, it is worth \$100,000 to \$200,000.

By the time it has been adulterated, and passed through several hands, the heroin could fetch \$1 to \$5 million on the street, U.S. Drug Enforcement officials said.

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PRAYER TIMES
Fajr (Sunrise) Doba

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
Khamasini conditions will wane and

DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate
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Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 62209093
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Traffic Police 6359091
Public Security Department 636000 / 685111
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Water and Sewerage
Complaints 897467
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Princess Haya Hospital (03)514111

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in Ds per kg.
Apples 50 / 40
Bananas 350 / 300
Bread (Mukammal) 200 / 250
Cabbage 120 / 80
Carrots 110 / 70
Cauliflower 200 / 160
Cucumbers 110 / 70
Eggs 200 / 150
Garlic 280 / 220
Grapefruit 460 / 400
Lemon 350 / 300
Lettuce (per one) 100 / 70
Marrow (large) 150 / 140
Marrow (small) 200 / 250
Onion (Shanoum) 370 / 300
Orange (local) 310 / 260

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

02:45 Belgrade, Istanbul (IL)
02:55 Cairo (ME)
03:00 Baghdad (IA)
14:45 Benghazi (LN)
14:45 Riyadh (SL)

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

(Terminal 1)

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tlx. (03)5300-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights
(Terminal 1)
04:55 Aqaba (RJ)
16:00 Frankfurt (add.) (RJ)
16:40 Tripoli (RJ)
16:45 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
17:10 Athens (RJ)
17:30 Aqaba, Helsinki (RJ)
17:45 Geneva, Madrid (RJ)
18:00 Frankfurt, Brussels (RJ)
12:15 London (RJ)
19:40 Kinshasa, Dakar (RJ)
19:45 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
20:15



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Thursday inspects architectural designs on display at the Professional Associations' Complex (Petra photo)

Prince calls for dialogue

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Thursday stressed the need for continued constructive dialogue between the various bodies in the Kingdom, saying that that serves the interest and welfare of the country.

Addressing engineers at the Professional Associations' Complex, Prince Hassan called on all engineers to participate in the regional development seminars, held in Jordan and enquired about the future role of Jordanian engineers in the Arab Cooperation Council states.

Prince Hassan said that the

issue of human habitat should be the major issue in any engineering future plans and stressed that housing schemes should take that into consideration, a concept that in itself means the building of a new society. The Crown Prince called for using the good designs that take into consideration the best use of land.

Jordan Engineers Association President Laith Shubaelat also addressed the opening session, saying that the association works on capitalising on the new ideas and developing them with a view to establishing highly technical and advanced industries.

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

KING, SADDAM EXCHANGE VIEWS: His Majesty King Hussein Friday telephoned Iraqi President Saddam Hussein. The two leaders exchanged views on a number of national issues of interest to the two countries. (Petra)

CONGRATULATIONS: His Majesty King Hussein Friday sent a cable of congratulations to Greek President Christos Sarizetakis on Greece's national day anniversary. In his cable the King wished the Greek president good health and the Greek people further progress and prosperity (Petra).

PAN-ARAB VIEWS: His Majesty King Hussein Thursday exchanged views on a number of pan-Arab issues with Yemen Arab Republic President Ali Abdullah Saleh, during a telephone call the King made to the Yemeni leader (Petra).

4-KILOMETRE RACE: A total of 1,100 people Friday participated in a four-kilometre race on the International Woman's Day anniversary. Her Royal Highness Princess Aisha deputised for Her Majesty Queen Noor in presenting medals and cups to the winners. (Petra)

IRAQI MESSAGE: Prime Minister Zaid Rifai Thursday received a message from Iraqi First Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yassin Ramadan. The message was delivered by Ramadan's office director who was received by Rifai at a special meeting attended by the Iraqi Ambassador to Jordan Ghafel Jaseem Hussein (Petra).

VIOLATIONS: A meeting was held Thursday at the Prime Ministry to discuss violations reported by the Audit Bureau for the year 1987. These violations are related to the Ministry of Social Development, the Civil Aviation Authority, and the Aqaba Railway Corporation. During the meeting, discussions focused on the violations as the conferees expressed readiness to review them and do whatever possible to correct them. (Petra).

SENTENCES: The Military Governor has endorsed a military court's verdict sentencing Saad Atalla Jamal Fakhr to nine months in prison and payment of a JD 400 fine after finding him guilty of embezzling public funds. The military governor also endorsed a verdict sentencing Saleem Abdul Hafiz Mohammad to three years imprisonment and a fine of JD 1,200 after finding him guilty of the acquisition of hashish (Petra).

CHICKENS ARE HERE: 2,000 tonnes of frozen chicken arrived in Aqaba Port Wednesday and will be put for sale at the shops and supermarkets as of Saturday. Ministry of Supply sources said Wednesday. The sources added that another 2,000 tonnes of the commodity will arrive via the port at the end of this month, to be put up for sale at the markets during the fasting month of Ramadan (Petra).

TOURISM: Minister of Tourism Yanal Hikmat Thursday discussed with a visiting Japanese team means of promoting and marketing Jordanian tourism in Japan. Hikmat also reviewed with them the available tourist investment opportunities and the tourist programmes that can be marketed in Japan (Petra).

NEW INDUSTRIAL CITY: Al Hussein Industrial City, constructed in Irbid at a cost of JD 6.5 million will be open to investors as of the beginning of April, according to Jordan Industrial Cities Organisation Director-General Fayed Suheimat (Petra).

AVIATION: Directors of airline companies in the four countries of the Arab Cooperation Council, Jordan, Egypt, Iraq and North Yemen, meet in Cairo Sunday to draw up a strategy for civil aviation and to discuss the necessary steps for achieving the greatest degree of coordination among them (Petra).

HORTICULTURE: University of Jordan President Dr. Abdul Salam Majali Monday opens the first regional symposium on horticulture in Jordan and the neighbouring countries. The symposium, which lasts four days, is organised by the university's faculty of agriculture in cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture (J.T.).

FRANCE: Iraqi Finance Minister Hikmat Al Hadithi, Mauritanian Finance and Economy Minister Mohammad Ould Nabi, and Moroccan Finance Minister Mohammed Baradi arrived in Amman Thursday to participate in the annual meetings of the Arab Financial Institutions due to begin in Amman Saturday (Petra).

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- * An art exhibition by seven Jordanian artists at the Art Gallery of Abd Al Hamid Shoman Foundation — 9 a.m. - 1 p.m., 3 - 6 p.m.
- * An exhibition of paintings by Mohammad Al Jalooz at Alia Art Gallery.
- * An art exhibition by Moroccan artist Al Hashemi Izza at the Gallery, Jabal Luweibdeh.
- * An art exhibition displaying paintings by children at the Housing Bank Complex.
- * An art exhibition by Yusra Abu Ghazaleh at Philadelphia Hall, Holiday Inn.
- * A photography exhibition displaying photos depicting Jordan's historical and touristic sites at the University of Jordan.

CONCERT

- * A concert by Mstislav Rostropovich, "the grand master of the cello," at the Royal Cultural Centre — 7:30 p.m.

Hindawi: New school curricula in 4 years

AQABA (Petra) — Deputy Prime Minister and Education Minister Thounqan Hindawi Thursday said the new school curricula will be applicable to all educational stages within the next four years.

At a meeting with education personnel in Aqaba district, Hindawi said the new curricula are designed to meet requirements of the educational development process and avoid any shortcomings in terms of content, method and objectives.

Hindawi noted that the new curricula have been drawn up in accordance with solid scientific bases, designed to achieve objectives of the educational development process.

Hindawi stressed the role of

the school headmasters in making the educational process a success and highlighted their important contribution towards consolidating the modern school syllabus.

The minister added that self reliance adjustments to the new developments in the various fields mean continued development and improvements.

Hindawi outlined his ministry's plans and projects, aimed at achieving comprehensive educational development, including all components of the educational process — school buildings, teacher training, curricula and providing the suitable facilities.

During his tour of the district, Hindawi laid the foundation stone for the permanent scouting



Thounqan Hindawi

camp, which will be set up on an area of 35 dunums along the Aqaba shore. Hindawi also opened the Khadija Bint Khuwailid School in Aqaba.

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Sunday inaugurates a symposium on political pluralism in the Arab World, organised by the Arab Thought Forum (ATF).

Taking part in the four-day symposium will be 100 Arab intellectuals and observers and media representatives from a number of Arab and other countries.

On Saturday, the Crown Prince chairs the sixth annual meeting of the ATF's General Assembly. The assembly will discuss the ATF's report on the Arab situation in 1988, prepared by the ATF in cooperation with the Political and Strategic Studies Centre at Al Ahram newspaper.

and traditional forms of expressing political pluralism, in addition to other topics. The symposium will also discuss two case studies one for the Arab Maghreb and the other for the Arab Gulf and Arab Peninsula.

Participants will discuss a number of issues, including strategy of the organisation's work for the years 1990-1994, in line with the common economic Arab strategy and the resolutions of the Arab Economic and Social Council.

The board of AOAD will also discuss the organisation's budget for the years 1990/1991 and its financial situation, in addition to the organisation's contacts with Egypt to reopen the organisation's offices in Cairo.

Also figuring high on discussion will be changing the organisation's name, to AOAD instead of Arab Organisation for Administrative Sciences, and the selection of a new executive board for the next two years.

The organisation's strategy stresses the importance of achieving administrative development in the Arab World to serve Arab comprehensive development and Arab citizens. It also aims at liberating the innovative powers of Arabs and highlighting the important role of administration in achieving and accelerating economic and social development.

On March 21, UNRWA announced that it intended to take measures on March 25 to provide some education to the almost 36,000 pupils normally attending 90 UNRWA schools in the West Bank. The schools have been closed except for a new intermittent periods since February 1988 and have been closed continuously since January 21.

1989. They have been ordered to remain closed until at least April 19.

UNRWA considers that the extended closure of schools is denying children their right to an education and particularly concerned that the youngest refugee children should be permitted to have the opportunity of beginning their education.

While the immediate reopening of the schools would be the best course, one which UNRWA has repeatedly urged on the Israeli authorities, the current situation calls for interim steps to maintain some continuity in the education of refugee pupils.

UNRWA plans delayed

AMMAN (J.T.) — UNRWA's plans to provide some basic education to young Palestine refugees in the Israeli-occupied West Bank have been delayed pending further discussions with the Israeli authorities, UNRWA announced.

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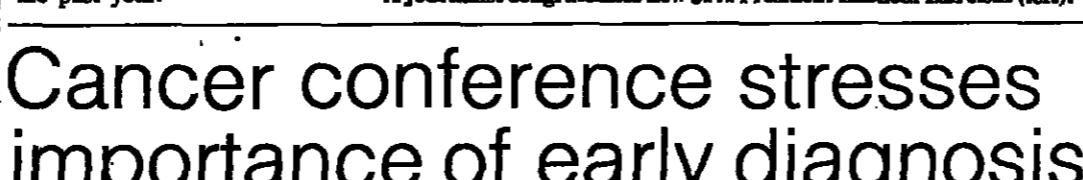
The elected board members were shafiq Obeidat, Omar Abanah, and Salim Al Ma'ani from the public sector and Badr Abdul Haq, Mohammad Naji Al Amrahi, and Suleiman Al Barwani from the private sector.

Moreover, Abdul Hafiz Mohammad, Fayez Hamdan and Fakhri Abu Hamdah won uncontested as representatives of the owners of the papers.

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A journalist congratulates new JPA President Hashem Khreisat (left).



A journalist congratulates new JPA President Hashem Khreisat (left).

AMMAN (Petra) — Voting for the post of president of the Jordan Press Association (JPA) and the JPA board was held Friday. In these elections, Hashem Khreisat was elected to the post of JPA president for two years beating his competitor Abdul Salam Al Tarawneh by 84 to 81 votes.

The elected board members were shafiq Obeidat, Omar Abanah, and Salim Al Ma'ani from the public sector and Badr Abdul Haq, Mohammad Naji Al Amrahi, and Suleiman Al Barwani from the private sector.

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At the conclusion of the conference, the conferees sent a cable of thanks and appreciation to Her Majesty Queen Noor for inaugurating the conference and for her special interest in the scientific subjects discussed. In their cable, they lauded the Queen's support for the JCPs and expressed readiness to continue their serious work so as to ensure early diagnosis of cancer and educate the public in this regard.

The conferees also studied means of improving the diagnosis of bone marrow cancerous cells

as well as treatment of breast cancer. The conferees expressed appreciation for the efforts exerted in preparing for this conference.

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Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975.

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Clear message

HIS Majesty King Hussein's impending visit to Washington on May 2 to hold talks with President George Bush on the Middle East will come in the wake of the official visits to Washington and the White House by Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir. It could not thus occur at a more opportune time. Likewise, King Hussein's talks with President Bush will provide the two leaders the first formal opportunity to discuss the issues of war and peace in the Middle East since President George Bush assumed power. King Hussein will bring with him decades-long experience of the Arab-Israeli conflict, including its Palestinian dimension.

As King Hussein's projections and prophecies about the turn of events in the Middle East have proved accurate over and over again. Hopefully, this time around, the U.S. government will accord maximum attention to what King Hussein has to say about the complications of the Arab-Israeli conflicts. None of the Middle Eastern leaders have been more involved in the Arab-Israeli conflicts than King Hussein who practically grew up with the Palestinian cause and has seen and experienced all its various painful chapters unfold.

His Majesty has frequently held talks with American leaders in the past about the Palestinian question and its effects on the Arab-Israeli conflicts as a whole. This, however, is the most promising occasion given the long experiences of the Middle East that President Bush has brought with him to the White House. The bold steps taken by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker to usher in a new relationship with the PLO, both at home and abroad, provide the necessary fertile environment to set the Arab-Israeli conflicts on the right track. This is a window of opportunity to resolve the Palestinian case once and for all, as well as the other dimensions of the Arab-Israeli conflicts. The timing of King Hussein's visit to the U.S. could not be better and if Washington can be persuaded to free itself from Israeli hegemony, so much the better. King Hussein's trip to the U.S. will thus be seen as an added impetus to encourage the U.S. to forge ahead in its new path. Above all, King Hussein will carry Jordan's message to Washington in the clearest possible terms as to how the Middle East puzzle can be resolved equitably and durably for all sides to honour and uphold for good. The central plank of Jordan's message is not to take Jordan and Jordanians for granted in seeking settlements. It is the message of a proud country and people who will never forsake its duties to Arab causes and will not tolerate any trespassing on its own identity and independence.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i daily newspaper Friday said that Washington is obviously trying to divert world public attention from the Palestinian revolt to the ongoing political negotiations going on between Washington and the PLO in Tunis. Washington wants to liquidate the revolt and wants the Palestinians to take up the talks in Tunis as a substitute, something which will harm the Palestinian cause, the paper noted. It asked why Washington is not asking the Israelis to terminate their occupation of Arab lands instead so that the aspired peace can be achieved. The paper said that intifada has never been and will not be a matter for compromise because it is a legitimate liberation movement to enable the Palestinians regain their rights and their usurped land. The intifada has succeeded in rallying world public support behind the Palestinian people's drive to get freedom, the paper noted, and this revolt is bound to continue until freedom has been achieved.

Al Dustour daily said that as Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir makes ready for his United States visit, the political arena in Israel seems to be in confusion. The paper said the Israeli political leaders are undecided and are split over the Palestinian issue. This situation together with the ongoing intifada has helped to tighten the noose around the prime minister who is reported still adamant and still determined to deprive the Palestinians of their rights, the paper noted. It said that the Israeli leadership will be facing the Bush administration in Washington after having faced the Europeans and the whole world, and cannot be allowed to go on aborting all peace bids and ignoring the world community's will. Therefore we are hoping that the United States will take serious steps in this respect and exercise real pressure on Tel Aviv to make it accept the aspired peace.

Sawt Al Shabab daily commented on the situation in Lebanon and said that this mad war, and the shelling of residential areas must be made to stop. The paper said that over the past 14 years the Lebanese people have been living through suffering and great pain for no reason and not objective. It said that the current brutal battles can by no means allow one party to come out victorious and the killing of innocent people will never bring peace to Lebanon. The paper expressed hope that the Arab mediation task force will now double its efforts and persuade the Lebanese leaders to opt for peace and for safeguarding their country's sovereignty and independence.

By Steny Hoyer

THERE is no Turkish minority in Bulgaria, government officials insist. Bulgaria is a single-nationality state where all of its citizens, including those of Islamic faith, are descendants of Bulgarians. The descendants of those Bulgarians who are "Turkified" forcibly during the 500 years of Ottoman domination have voluntarily and calmly reverted to their true ethnic identity.

Such is the official explanation from Bulgarian officials regarding the name change by 900,000 of the ethnic Turkish minority of Bulgaria from Turkish to Slavic names. Since the 1950s the government of Bulgaria has been waging and winning a war against its Turkish minority. More than 1,000 Turkish schools existed in Bulgaria in the early 1950s, none exist today. Back then the number of imams exceeded 1,800, by 1985 the number had been reduced to approximately 500.

It was four years ago that forced assimilation by the Bulgarian government of the Turkish minority, who make up 10 per cent of the population, assumed the form of large-scale human rights abuses. The campaign's goals were clear: eradicate any Islamic identity and erase a national minority within Bulgaria. From December 1985 the government compelled members of the ethnic Turkish-speaking minority to change their Turkish names to Bulgarian ones. The campaign was carried out by the army and paramilitary organisations — often at gunpoint and at the cost of lives. Reports coming out of Bulgaria indicated that more than 250 ethnic Turks were arrested and imprisoned for non-violent opposition to the campaign.

Seydye Tahirova, one of the few Turkish deputies of the Bulgarian National Assembly, defected to Turkey last September. Upon her arrival she stated that there are 1.5 million Turks living in Bulgaria today and they all now have Bulgarian names. Indeed, back in March of 1985 government officials declared that the restoration of Bulgarian names had been "safely completed."

The campaign's goals were clear: Eradicate Islamic identity and erase a national minority.

Restrictions on the practice of Islam are tied inextricably to the campaign to assimilate the Turkish minority. Most of Bulgaria's mosques have been closed. Muslim rites such as circumcision, weddings, and burials are severely

Stamping out a minority

ly restricted or forbidden. Religious education of children is prohibited. The Koran is not published and cannot be imported. Restrictions on travel outside Bulgaria make the annual pilgrimage to Mecca virtually impossible.

And those who protest assimilation or who attempt to practise Islam beyond very narrow limitations are punished. Dr. Ibrahim Ismailov Arifov, a physician, along with others, was severely tried in March of 1987 and sentenced to eight to 10 years for producing leaflets protesting the forcible assimilation.

According to reports from Amnesty International four women were sentenced in 1987 to between six and eight months' imprisonment for having their sons or grandsons circumcised.

At last year's meeting of the Organisation of Islamic Conference in Amman, delegates heard a report from a delegation that visited Bulgaria in June 1987 to investigate allegations of assimilation and religious persecution. The report was

pointedly critical of Bulgaria's actions.

The Foreign Ministers at the meeting expressed solidarity with the Muslim minority in Bulgaria, deplored the acts of repression, and appealed to the Bulgarian government to observe its international obligations regarding religious and cultural rights.

At the Commission on Security and Cooperation follow-up meeting in Vienna, the issues of cultural and religious freedom for minorities in Bulgaria have been addressed repeatedly by the United States delegation.

Yet there are no tangible signs that Bulgaria is considering any change in its policies. Political cynicism is reflected in the official line, which justifies persecutions in terms of past injustices inflicted by the Ottoman Empire upon Bulgaria. The government's position suggests an unwillingness either to adhere to human rights standards it has pledged to uphold or to accept responsibility for the suffering it is causing.

U.S. policymakers are faced with a dilemma. The assimilation

campaign can be accepted as a successful fait accompli and thus a closed book. Or the more recent "openness" on the part of high level Bulgarian officials, spurred in part by the desire to gain full membership in the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade and to enhance Bulgaria's access to Western markets and technology, can be met by a challenge.

Continuation of the status quo in bilateral relations could be interpreted as tacit acquiescence to Bulgaria's policies toward its Turkish minority. The U.S. must show this is not the case.

The immediate imperative is for the international community to exert greater pressure on the government of Bulgaria before the destruction of an entire way of life is complete.

The writer is representative (Democrat) of the state of Maryland chairs the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe. His article appeared in the Christian Science Monitor on March 2, 1989.

Islamic protests start to rattle Turkey

By Hugh Pope

Reuter

ISTANBUL — Pro-Islamic demonstrations swept Turkish cities this month, prompting the question — does an Islamic revival threaten the secular republic of Turkey?

The protests, sparked by anger at Salman Rushdie's book "The Satanic Verses," were fuelled by a ban this month on women wearing Islamic headscarves at universities.

Hundreds of black-clad women and bearded men, braving riot police and arrests, marched repeatedly in several cities after Friday prayers shouting Allah-o-Akbar (God is Great).

"An Islamic movement is on the rise," said a diplomat from the European Community (EC), which Turkey has applied to join.

"But the really interesting question is, where is the movement going?" he added.

The 1982 constitution imposed severe restrictions on left-wing activities and introduced compulsory teaching of Islam at school for the first time.

An Islamic revolution on the Iranian model seems unlikely as there is no single charismatic leader to unite opposition and the Turkish Sunni Muslim mainstream is basically pro-government.

Differences over Islam could also provoke a split in Prime Minister Turgut Ozal's Mother-

land Party, which includes both liberal free-marketeers and the pro-Islamic right.

Ozal's most popular vote-winner, Istanbul Mayor Bedrettin Dalan, has made clear he is thinking of setting up a new party with secularism as a major rallying cry. President Kenan Evren, military chiefs and other pillars of the secularist establishment have voiced worries about the Islamic unrest.

But almost all commentators say that any growth in the strength of Islam in Turkey is probably due to the 1980-83 period of military rule under Evren, a former general.

The 1982 constitution imposed severe restrictions on left-wing activities and introduced compulsory teaching of Islam at school for the first time.

A trend of Islamification of society and the bureaucracy has accelerated under Ozal's government, with critics saying that Isla-

mic tarikat brotherhoods are increasingly powerful.

Budget and staff allocations to the state religious affairs directorate, which runs Turkey's 60,000 mosques, have grown faster than almost any other government department.

The number of state secondary schools with a heavy Islamic curriculum to train mosque prayer leaders has multiplied, and they now educate 13 per cent of all secondary school students.

Iran has criticised the ban on headscarves at campuses, and Turkey has in turn warned Iran not to meddle in its affairs.

But diplomats said foreign involvement in the issue in Turkey was slight.

Saudi Arabia backs its vision of Islam through Islamic banks and cultural associations.

Newspapers linked a covert war between Islamic hardliners and moderates to the mysterious murder this month of a liberal

Istanbul prayer leader as he came down from his minaret.

In the Black Sea mountains, sick peasants queue for days at a Islamic shrine to be chained hand and foot to columns in the hope that their illness will be cured.

In Istanbul, progressive groups co-exist with rigidly fundamentalist thinking in quarters where Koran schools look like forts and some women wear black head-to-toe coverings.

Minority sects range from few Shi'ite Muslim Azeris in north-east Turkey to the Alevis, an independent-minded, heterodox Shi'ite sect which may number more than 10 million people.

Islam has its main political impact in cities where mosques and cultural associations are dominated by lower middle-class tradesmen.

But the share of the vote won by overtly Islamic fundamentalist parties peaked at about 11 per cent in the early 1970s. It is now around six per cent and declining.

'Safety valve' for societies

By Norman S. Holmes

WASHINGTON — Freedom to talk and discuss politically sensitive issues in the media provides a "safety valve" within countries that actually leads to political stability rather than instability, according to Sanford Unger, who has been a familiar figure in commercial and public press and radio in the United States for more than 20 years.

Unger, dean of the School of Communications at The American University, said because discourse is a social "safety valve," all people are better able to handle the free flow of information and ideas — rather than controlled information — regardless of the degree of their economic or educational development.

Speaking at a March 21 telephone press conference with journalists in Islamabad sponsored by the U.S. Information Agency, Unger said there are no "degrees" of press or media freedom in a country. "The word freedom cannot be limited. Either one has freedom of the press or one doesn't."

Unger said the litmus test of that freedom is that "the public in

general knows whether the media is telling the truth or not." Unger said that "true press freedom is difficult to define, but we know it when we see it because it has a kind of public acceptance."

While there may be "intermediate stages" on the way to developing press freedom in some countries, Unger said "the important thing is that the movement should be in the direction where issues can be openly debated and discussed in the various media."

The veteran newsman also cautioned journalists against "cultural relativism" which claims that "certain countries are not ready" for freedom or democracy. A high rate of illiteracy in a society is not an argument against having a free press, he asserted.

"The broadcast media can certainly be understood by people, and in fact in many parts of the world the media have been used as a tool to help achieve literacy."

In response to questions about the influence of special interests on the American press, Unger said, "I can tell you it is very difficult to control the American media." One reason, he said, is

that there are so many interests competing with each other for influence that it is very difficult for any one interest to seize control.

"I think that our media have managed to remain quite free, very vibrant and mischievous — outspoken at times."

Unger said the concept of a free press has grown because international boundaries are so "porous" today, it is impossible to circumscribe or control the flow of ideas.

Turning to the Soviet Union, he said glasnost and perestroika are a result of Politburo recognition that it is better politically to facilitate than to block the flow of ideas. "Mr. Gorbachev has seen that if he is going to make the kind of changes he wants to make, he is going to have to be more open in discussion of ideas, and the first place to do this is in the media." While there has been some progress in the Soviet Union, he said, "I don't doubt that there is still a great deal of control — a great deal of suppression of what people would like to say. There is still a long way to go."

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Mohammad Jalou: The struggle of the people for their homeland

By Nelly Lema
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The present exhibition in the Alia Gallery is Mohammad Jalou's sixth attempt to "find the potential energy that lies within the forms of nature that are within us and that are dispersed as details that create abstractions." With these words Mohammad Jalou presents his tumultuous paintings that deal with a subject no less boisterous than war. They bear a predominance of the colour green, colour of optimism and vivacity with contrasting patches of red interspersed at different intervals, often as shocking forms crying out in disharmony because of the intensity of their hue, reiterating the courageous cry of the warrior that appears again and again in most of his figurative works.

The warring figures are mostly stylized figures, men marching forward, their faces covered, their hands gesturing in signs of challenge and defiance.

The figures are almost always placed on the first plane while buildings tower above, in the upper part of the canvas, where thick white brushstrokes cover the red and green below leaving patches of those colours in the form of windows and doors.

The overall tilting of the compositions to the left, he claims, is meant and studied, if only to give movement and life to the paintings.

Mohammad often creates a frenzied texture with a mosaic of small brushstrokes, varied shades interpenetrating to form more dramatic rhythms.

Nation of lovers

"The weddings of the earth" is a work with an extensive format of 110 x 380 cms, painted on three simultaneous canvases. It portrays a roaring crowd ready to throw stones. Here again green dominates and is interrupted by sharp patches of black haphazardly placed in the composition. Red patches also flicker, at odd intervals, portraying all that is heroic from stone throwers, and the flag, to red hot flames from which tiny figures are fleeing. Above them, a couple of monumental hands carry a stone illustrating the poetry of Mahmoud Darwish "From a stone we shall build the nation of lovers." Calligraphy found on the facade of the buildings calls onto the Koranic verses that deal with martyrdom as not death but eternal bliss. On both sides of this vast work shapes open up and

spaces are larger, smoother and more uniform. Even figures are enlarged and done with more realism, a woman raises both arms in a sign of victory.

There is a marked inconsistency in the work, be it in the size of objects and brushstrokes, or in the dispersion of colour and form. Its large scale requires that the artist distance himself from the canvas, recedes, enough to see it in its entirety and compose it as such. It is a very ambitious work that would normally require a great amount of preparation and sketching to arrive to a harmony that makes the work as solemn as it is meant to be.

Mohammad paints a few canvases with a totally different style. Retaining his use of green interspersed with red, he forms vertical undulating forms that fit within a strict rectangular spaces filling a large horizontal portion of the canvas. Towering above that, in the centre, are impressions of houses.

"These are my latest works. They are very detailed. In the past, I felt details were irrelevant and I only worked with large spaces. Now I have more patience and care more for detail." Truly enough the part of the

canvas that is filled with the undulating forms creates a rectangular area that could very well be called a compression, in the manner of some modern artists.

His best compositions are those that bear large independent figures, usually cloaked, coming forward towards the centre.

Good perspective is created by their movement while the cloaks

wrapped around their bodies give the artist a chance to create depths and volumes with the folds of the drapery.

This exhibition will go on, at the Alia Gallery, until the end of March.

Crumbling country houses — a blot on the Irish landscape

By Paul Majendie
Reuter

DUBLIN — A bitter legacy of 700 years of British rule is dotted around Ireland — dozens of once elegant country houses crumbling into extinction.

The landed gentry were hated symbols of the conquering colonials and many grandiose homes were burned down in the early 1920s as Ireland fought for independence.

What the torch didn't get, the dam did. Ceilings caved in, classical columns collapsed. Stranded hulks were left abandoned in a changed and hostile environment.

Irish art historian Desmond Fitzgerald argues forcibly that it is time to forgive, forget and restore. "This is our history. You cannot just erase it because it is colonial."

"It would be very sad for people to come to Ireland and find nothing left from the 18th and 19th centuries to look at," he told Reuters in an interview.

Fitzgerald, himself owner of an ancient castle, has helped mount "Vanishing country houses of Ireland," a graphic photo exhibition that was staged in Dublin, London and is now in New York. It is a depressing chronicle of destruction, decay and dereliction and Fitzgerald said: "Only by putting on his rather terrifying catalogue of demolition, do we get people to wake up a bit."

Vanished without a trace

He said there were only about 30 major surviving houses in the Irish republic and noted in stark contrast that "before 1914, there were 2,500 families who owned 1,000 acres or more and were resident landlord. Hundreds of houses have vanished without trace."

But what of Irish nationalist critics who say why bother to save the fading vestiges of a colonial past?

"The naive assumption that these houses are seen as merely memorials to outdated colonialism should be resisted because they are in fact treasure houses of Irish skills," he argued.

But Fitzgerald argues that what is needed now is a trust charged with saving the remaining key properties. "This is a cry to show what is disappearing. It would be appallingly irresponsible to let everything go."

"What is really vital is that the few owned by the original families, and which still contain many of their contents such as portraits, furniture and memorabilia should be encouraged to survive because they represent an important element of Irish history."

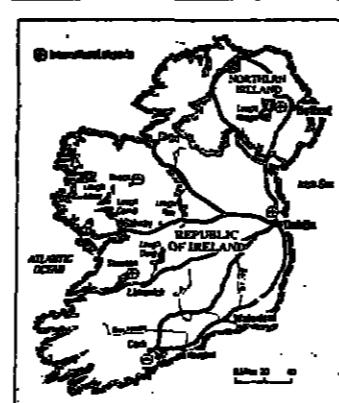
Drown in a decade

"If no life line is thrown out to them soon, they will all drown in a decade or so," he pleads in the book.

Tourism ranks as one of Ireland's most vital industries with the government determined to double the number of visitors and create 25,000 badly needed jobs over the next five years.

Fitzgerald points out that 1.7 million people visit Irish country houses every year. "This country has a wet climate. People want to go inside and see things."

As knight of ginn and owner of a splendid castle in Limerick that has been in his family's hands



since the 14th century, Fitzgerald has had to develop commercial expertise to stay afloat.

His castle, with its superb collection of 18th century mahogany furniture, takes in conferences and affluent guests in search of an elegant Ireland. "We have gone into the tourist business. These houses were built for entertaining in."

Fitzgerald, hoping to jolt the Irish into a conservationist frame of mind, concluded "it would be ironic in about 10 to 15 years if there were no country houses left in Ireland and the only place you could see any would be in Northern Ireland."

Profit, despair in Kampuchea's black market gateway

By David Storey
Reuter

PAK KLONG, Kampuchea — Phuong, sitting at a scruffy table in a brothel with his tin of clean hypodermic needles at his side, looked unutterably sad.

"I am a dog with no home," said the 26-year-old Vietnamese at Pak Klong, a cross between a gaudy black market and a squalid refugee centre on the first inlet on the Kampuchean coast east of the Thai frontier.

Phuong, who interrupted medical courses to leave Vietnam with his family, abandoned his parents in the main Kampuchean port of Kompong Som four months ago to try to get to the west.

With his tin of needles, with which he earns a tiny income from administering injections, he ended up in Pak Klong, for some a gateway to trade with the west but for him a dead end.

For him and about 300 other Vietnamese who tried to port-

hop along the Kampuchean coast to Thailand, home is a collection of bamboo and banana leaf huts built on stilts over an open sewer.

Their dispirited community mingles with the affluent black marketers who have turned Pak Klong into a main distribution point for illicit trade into Kampuchea.

The trade has turned an estuary village of only a few dozen people into a bustling town of several thousand.

The waterfront of brightly-painted wooden houses presides over constant activity, unloading of cardboard boxes from fishing boats and small high-speed boats with outboard motors that ply the two-hour trip from Thailand.

In the channel a rustling hulk stands loaded with second-hand cars and motorbikes transhipped from a less decrepit vessel from Singapore and destined for Kompong Som.

A visit by dozens of Thai businessmen and journalists last

month was the first time the town was opened to such outside scrutiny for more than 14 years.

The trip was made possible by the thaw in relations between the neighbouring states as a settlement draws near to the 10-year conflict in Kampuchea.

It was arranged by a Thai businessman and member of parliament who has been involved in the illicit trade for a decade and who sees further chances for profit as Kampuchea opens up.

Three western journalists tag-

ged along, their Caucasian fea-

tures drawing stares. "I once saw a group of Russians here, but otherwise you are the first," said one surprised woman.

While the Vietnamese carry

tins of water or sell their scrawny bodies for a meagre living, big fortunes change hands on the waterfront.

An elegant-looking half-Thai half-Kampuchean woman sporting a heavy ruby ring and gold bracelets runs the bank.

This consists of a wide wooden platform on which she sits behind a glass cabinet with three shelves.

The top two are stuffed with Kampuchean riel and the lower one with Thai baht.

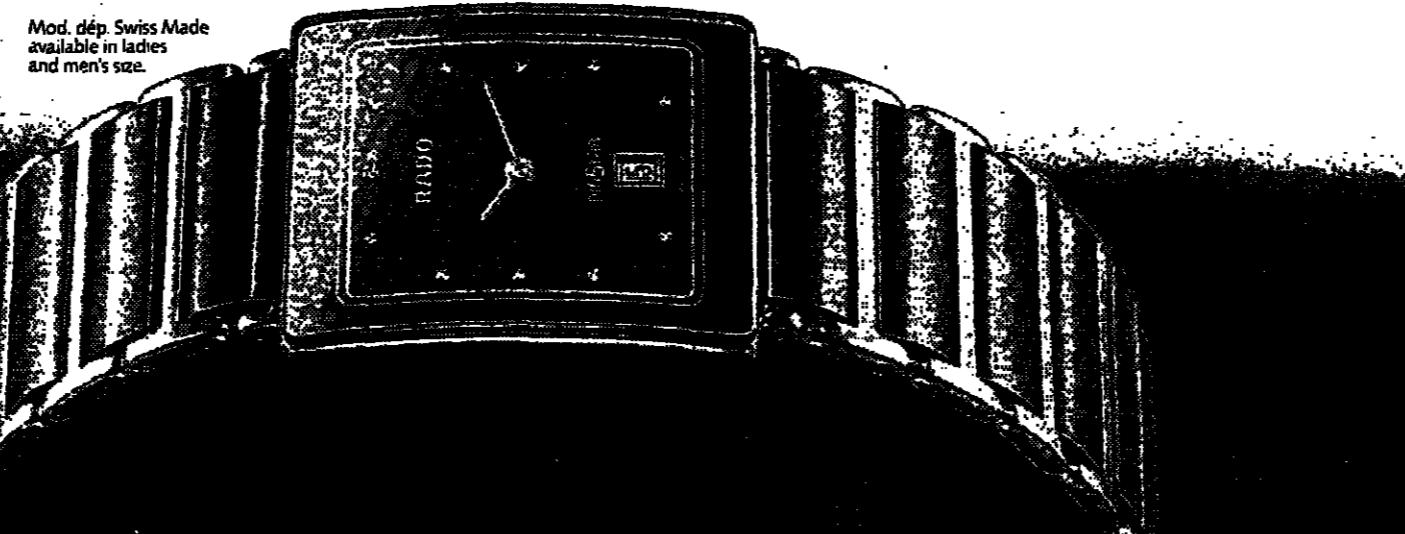
"It's eight riel to 50 baht. People have to change their baht to pay their taxes," she said.

"Taxes" is a euphemism for "bribes" to Kampuchean patrols.

Close by, women sort through piles of marijuana.

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Arab development institutions open meetings in Amman today

AMMAN (J.T.) — The board of governors of the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (BADEA) holds its 15th annual assembly in Amman Saturday and Sunday in the framework of the joint annual meetings of Arab development institutions. These include, in addition to BADEA, the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development, the Inter-Arab Investment Guarantee Corporation, the Arab Monetary Fund and the Arab Authority for Agricultural Investment and Development.

BADEA board of governors, which constitutes the highest authority in the bank and is composed of the 18 finance ministers of the member states will examine, among other items on the agenda, the project of the second five year plan (1990-1994) for mobilisation and utilisation of the bank's resources, the repayment of arrears on loans.

The meeting will also look into the board of directors' report on the activities of the bank during 1988 and the auditors' report for the same year.

BADEA was established pursuant to a decision of the 6th Arab Summit (Algiers: November 1973) and it began operations in March 1975. It is a financial institution funded by the member countries of the Arab League

with the purpose of contributing to the economic development of the non-Arab African countries. To this end, the bank is given a mandate to extend loans and to provide the technical assistance necessary for implementation of development projects and to encourage the contribution of Arab capital to African economic expansion.

During the period 1975-1988, BADEA's financial commitments in Africa totalled \$874 million in support of 121 projects, 14 special agricultural operations, seven lines of credit and 44 technical assistance grants.

In addition to project aid, BADEA extended 37 emergency aid loans worth \$214.25 million to help solve balance of payments

problems in African countries from the resources of the Special Arab Aid Fund for Africa (SAAFA), a body established at the same time as BADEA (1973) and whose capital was incorporated into that of BADEA in 1977.

Including these resources, BADEA cumulative lendings reached by end 1988, \$1089 million and benefited 38 out of the 41 non-Arab African countries eligible for the bank's assistance.

The grant element in BADEA loans, which reflects the level of concessionality in the assistance, stands at an average of 38 per cent over the period 1974-1988. This average totalled 72 per cent in the case of emergency aid granted by SAAFA.

In compliance both with the development requirements of the continent and with the priorities of the national development plans in the beneficiary countries, BADEA focuses on the leading sectors and on those from which faster and wider expansion may be expected.

This appears in the 14 year sectoral distribution of aid where the sector of infrastructure accounts for half of the cooperation budget, while a quarter of

total commitments was devoted to agriculture. Industry, energy and technical assistance were beneficiaries of the rest of the aid resources.

Nevertheless, due to the recent exacerbation of the African food crisis, the rehabilitation of agriculture and activities related to food production was given particular emphasis during the last four years, as the sector was accorded between 34 and 61 per cent of total BADEA commitments for the concerned period.

According to BADEA classification, the African Continent is divided into two sub-regions: The West which comprises 23 countries and the East composed of 18 countries. Over the period 1974-1988, the West was the recipient of 55.6 per cent of total BADEA commitments while the East received 44.4 per cent of the total.

The various interorganisational concordations and coordination meetings held by BADEA with its partners during the 14 years of activities, materialised in the launching of 64 cofinancing arrangements with Arab funds with a contribution of \$1,433 million and 88 joint operations with non-Arab partners with total financing of \$3,355 million.

Economists praise Saudi management

DUBAI (R) — Saudi Arabia has set the course for economic stability after years of struggling against weak oil prices and financial crises, economists in the Gulf region said.

"They made the adjustments that a strong government should make to get the economy back on line," said a senior Western diplomat who specialises in economic matters.

"I shudder to think what would happen if Western governments were presented with the same policy choices," added the diplomat, who declined to be identified.

A healthier Saudi economy was expected to bring wider benefits from political stability and security to other states in the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) alliance.

Saudi Arabia's share of the GCC economic area in terms of total domestic output value has dropped from 76 per cent in 1981 to around 55 per cent, government figures show.

But the kingdom, with its close U.S. ties and role as guardian of Islam, remains the last rock of security to which the smaller GCC states look in times of uncertainty, diplomats said.

The forecasts of economic well-being overturned earlier speculation that Saudi Arabia had set itself optimistic revenue targets in an outline 1989 budget released in January and in a statement on economic policy by King Fahd.

But the economists said a clos-

er look at the budget figures and prospects for oil prices showed that planned revenues could well be underestimated.

The 1988 outline budget, at a rate of 3.75 riyals to the dollar, called for no change in expenditure of \$37.6 billion and a 10 per cent rise in revenues to \$30.9 billion. The deficit would be financed through government bonds.

King Fahd cleared away uncertainties over revenue by saying last year there would be no spending cuts which would affect the public "such as salaries, fees and aid."

This was interpreted to mean that there would be no rise in taxes, tariffs or agricultural subsidies, all of which had caused domestic concern. He also ruled out a devaluation of the riyal.

The 1989 outline gave no breakdown for oil and non-oil income, but, if non-oil revenues do not rise above the \$8.5 billion of last year, oil income would have to provide \$22.4 billion.

With Saudi Arabia's oil output quota set at 4.524 million barrels per day, an average annual price of \$14 to \$15 per barrel for Arabian light crude would be enough, the economists said. Prices look set to be higher for 1989.

Such figures do not take into account a possible rise in the Saudi quota or added revenues from the non-oil sources.

The economists estimated that non-oil income could easily be

Japan expands investments in France

PARIS (R) — France Thursday cleared the way for the Suntory wine and spirits group to become the first Japanese owner of a French cognac house.

The deal by Suntory, already the owner of the Bordeaux wine estate Chateau Lagrange, is the latest in a growing list of Japanese takeovers of French luxury goods firms.

A Suntory spokesman said the purchase ministry had finally approved a request to buy the century-old Louis Royer Cognac House, France's 12th largest.

The sale, held up by the ministry for several months, followed a similar request by Suntory which was turned down by the French authorities two years ago.

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ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

45 firms seek oil contracts in Yemen

ABU DHABI (R) — A joint oil company between North and South Yemen says 45 international firms have applied to explore for oil in the two countries, the United Arab Emirates newspaper Al Ittihad reported Thursday. It did not name any of the firms. Companies from the United States, Britain, France and Kuwait have been searching for oil in North Yemen. The two Yemens set up the \$10 million joint venture to exploit oil sources in border areas. Al Ittihad said exploration would cover an area of 2,200 square kilometres in areas where oil has already been discovered.

OAPEC postpones Iraq-Syria case

KUWAIT (R) — A case brought by Iraq against Syria for its 1982 closure of an oil pipeline has been adjourned until May 22, an official of the Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC), said Thursday. The case was brought before an OAPEC judicial tribunal soon after Syria shut the pipeline which links Iraq's Kirkuk oilfields with the Mediterranean port of Banias. A hearing had been set for Tuesday. Iraq claims the closure violated a 1979 contract under which it agreed to pay Syria a transit fee in exchange for the transport of 10 million tonnes of crude oil annually through the pipeline. The closure forced Iraq to

build new pipelines through Turkey and Saudi Arabia to export its oil after its main Gulf terminal was shut by the Iran-Iraq war.

Egypt, Morocco sign six accords

RABAT (R) — Egypt and Morocco signed six cooperation accords and agreed to link up their economies in numerous other sectors during a visit by Egyptian Prime Minister Atef Sedki, a joint statement published Friday said. Accords were signed for a joint holding company based in Rabat, with an initial capital of \$50 million to promote joint development projects, plus taxation, tariff, maritime, judicial and driving licence agreements. The statement said the high commission also studied the connection of electric power grids between North Africa and Europe, and a link-up between the Maghreb and the Middle East through Egypt, Jordan, Syria, Iraq and Turkey. The commission examined plans to develop investment in small- and medium-sized industrial enterprises and a proposal to give companies of each country the same status as private enterprises in the host country. It was decided to set up a special committee to regulate the movement of workers

Algerian auditors uncover major frauds

ALGIERS (R) — Official auditors in Algeria have uncovered several major frauds in state enterprises involving millions of dollars in public money, the official news agency APS reported Friday. The frauds were revealed in a series of statements issued by the government auditors, the Cour Des Comptes, the agency said. It said the auditors discovered that the Sauvo, a housing agency in the western town of Oran, misappropriated imported building materials worth 7.5 million dinars (\$1 million). They also discovered frauds in several banks, including the Banque Algerienne De Developpement Rural, a farm credit agency, which issued certified cheques worth 7.6 million dinars without collateral, it said. In another case, an insurance office manager in Jijel misappropriated \$80,000 dinars (\$82,000) in indemnities he had obtained fraudulently with bogus insurance claims.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Thursday, March 23, 1989
Central Bank official rates

| | Buy | Sell | French franc | 85.0 | 85.9 |
|----------------|--------|--------|------------------------|-------|-------|
| U.S. dollar | \$38.0 | \$42.0 | Japanese yen (for 100) | 411.2 | 415.0 |
| Pound Sterling | 928.3 | 936.8 | Dutch guilder | 255.7 | 258.1 |
| Deutschmark | 288.4 | 291.2 | Swedish crown | 84.4 | 85.2 |
| Swiss franc | 332.4 | 336.0 | Italian lire (for 100) | 39.2 | 39.6 |
| | | | Belgian franc (for 10) | 137.7 | 139.0 |

Amman Financial Market weekly trading

Following is a summary of trading during last week and the previous week:

| | March 18-22 | March 23 | 11-15 |
|-----------------------|--------------|--------------|---------|
| Daily average | JD 802,404 | JD 496,781 | |
| Total volume | JD 4,012,018 | JD 2,483,909 | |
| Total shares | 2,383,056 | 1,332,095 | |
| No. of contracts | 3,169 | 2,144 | |
| Sectoral trading: | | | |
| Industrial | JD 2,430,742 | JD 1,544,194 | |
| Financial | JD 1,197,981 | JD 678,774 | (62.2%) |
| Service | (29.9%) | (27.3%) | |
| Insurance | (7.3%) | (6.0%) | |
| Share price index | 126.7 | 126.3 | |
| No. of companies | 64 | 66 | |
| Price movement (rise) | 34 | 27 | |
| (decline) | 18 | 31 | |
| (stable) | 12 | 8 | |

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SPORTS IN BRIEF

Spain virtually ensure cup place

SEVILLE (R) — Spain virtually assured themselves of a place in the World Cup soccer final in Italy next year when they beat Malta 4-0 in a qualifying match on Thursday. Spain have now won all five matches played to far in European Group Six with a tally of 14 goals for and none against. Although Hungary and Ireland can still theoretically take the first two qualifying spots, Spain look certain to qualify. Despite the scoreline Spain's performance Thursday lacked sparkle. Malta, with memories of a 12-1 defeat here six years ago, packed their defence and held the Spanish until the 38th minute.

'Russian roulette' rally begins

NAIROBI (R) — Fifty-seven cars roared off across the Savannah plains of Southeastern Kenya Thursday at the start of the five-day 4,559-km Safari rally which this year threatens to become a mudbath. The rainy season has already started in Kenya and rally officials said there were muddy patches along Thursday's route which leads southeast from Nairobi into narrow, twisting tracks round the Chyulu hills and back on to the Nairobi-Mombasa main road before another rough stretch south of Tsavo National Park. World champion Massimo Biasion, who is driving a Lancia Delta, said even four-wheel drive vehicles like his own could have problems in heavy rain. "Here, when there is mud, it is a metre deep and there's no longer such an advantage," said Biasion, last year's winner. "This rally is like Russian roulette. The luck factor is very important," said Biasion, fresh from rally victories in Monte Carlo and Portugal.

Italian clubs go after Brazilians

TURIN (AP) — Turin's daily *La Stampa* reported Friday that two Italian major league clubs, Atalanta of Bergamo and Pescara, are negotiating transfer of Brazilian players for the next season. The authoritative Turin daily wrote that Atalanta is seeking Bobo, the 26-year-old star of Sao Paulo who has been voted as the best Brazilian player of the year. According to the Italian daily Bobo's recent contract with Sao Paulo includes a clause allowing his transfer abroad at any time. Bobo, whose real name is Raimundo Nonato Tavares Da Silva, would team on Atalanta's lineup with fellow-Brazilian Evar, who transferred to Italy last year.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF
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ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

♦ A3 ♦ 9764 ♦ AK5 ♦ Q762

Partner opens the bidding with one diamond. What do you respond?

A.—Rarely should you bypass a four-card major in favor of one no trump no matter how weak the suit.

A.—A response of one heart promises nothing about suit quality. It simply says that you have four hearts and at least 6 points. Bid one heart.

Q.2—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:

♦ K3 ♦ Q6 ♦ A762 ♦ K15

The bidding has proceeded:

South West North East 1 ♦ Pass 1 ♦ 17 Pass

What do you bid now?

A.—Your first task is to describe your hand, which is a balanced minimum. The only way to do that is to rebid one no trump. Don't worry about the lack of a sure spade stopper. To rebid two diamonds in this sequence requires a six-card suit.

Q.3—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

♦ Void ♦ A95 ♦ AK762 ♦ K163

What do you bid now?

A.—The only way to do that is to rebid one no trump. Don't worry about the lack of a sure spade stopper. To rebid two diamonds in this sequence requires a six-card suit.

Q.4—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

♦ Void ♦ A95 ♦ AK762 ♦ K163

Jordan Rally Results:

AMMAN — (J.T.)

| Position | Driver | Co-driver | Time (hrs, mins, secs) |
|---|------------------|------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 | Ismail Hakeem | Latif Al Qasim | 1:14.89 |
| 2 | Ma'mar Abu Samra | Bill Shatkeid | 1:23.06 |
| 3 | Alfred Shamsan | Raid Shamsan | 1:26.31 |
| 4 | Mohammed Soltan | Bassem Bustani | 1:28.06 |
| 5 | Naser Bustani | Khalid Al Kassis | 1:28.47 |
| 6 | Mazin Dajani | Ramzi Bahous | 1:29.14 |
| 7 | Amjad Faraj | Omar Dasouqi | 1:29.32 |
| 8 | Nabil Dweiri | Kaifi Bilenjian | 1:30.43 |
| 9 | Mohammed Bustani | A. Abu Othman | 1:43.43 |
| 10 | Amin Zayid | Mahmoud Maenzi | 1:44.43 |
| 24 cars took part, and 16 cars finished | | | |

Legal horse drug levels cut in half

BUDAPEST (R) — The International Equestrian Federation (FEI) voted by the narrowest possible margin Thursday to reduce sharply the use of the horse drug known as Bute.

"We have ... to make rules to save horses from humans," Princess Anne of Britain, president of the FEI, told a heavily-divided session of the general assembly.

The maximum permitted level of phenylbutazone (bute) was cut to 0.2 from 0.5 micrograms per milliliter of blood plasma. But the vote could not have been closer with 42 of the 83 registered delegates in favour of the reduction.

Bute eases joint inflammation, but the FEI's governing bureau, headed by Princess Anne, has said it can be overused.

Opponents also say Bute can mask lameness and enable horses to jump when they are unfit.

Delegates from Sweden, which is to host the 1990 world equestrian games in Stockholm, had wanted a total ban in line with Swedish regulations but backed the cut as a compromise.

The drug is banned by horse racing authorities in Britain, but widely used in the United States.

Former Olympic gold medalist Richard Meade of Britain opposed the cut and said small doses of the drug were in the interests of horses, especially during three-day events.

Flor delegates to the assembly opposed the cut by 29-27, but it was pushed through by a block

vote from the 15-member bureau headed by Princess Anne.

The bureau, which had proposed the cut in maximum levels, thereby took the pro-vote to 42 — the minimum simple majority of 83 registered delegates.

A Dutch delegate complained that the bureau members had not been allowed to vote separately after hearing points from the floor. But he received short shrift from Princess Anne, who conducted the assembly with a tight rein.

Bute has become a hot issue in Sweden, where it is banned under a law on animal protection.

Organisers of the 1990 competition have received a dispensation from that law, but a Swedish delegate told the assembly this had caused an "uproar."

Opponents also say Bute can mask lameness and enable horses to jump when they are unfit.

At a news conference later, the princess compared bute with an aspirin any athlete might take if he woke up with a headache on the day of a competition.

"It's certainly not dope," she said. "That's a perfectly absurd suggestion."

She said she was personally less concerned about bute than about such practices as "de nerving" — the physical removal of nerves — to make jumping less painful for horses.

The practice was under investigation but difficult to prove, she said. "Unless you can see it is happening there is no point in making rules about it."

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY, MARCH 25, 1989

YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE

— As Charted By The Carroll Righter Astrological Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Optimistic views prevail most of the day. The morning may be more laid back than usual with activity picking up later in the day. Sensual energy appears in the evening.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Relationships are in focus. Plan a great day with friends and family. Get out of the old rut and locate new adventures and excitement.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) You may have to push yourself a little to get going. This is one of those easy and peaceful days that allow for a great deal of fun.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) It is easy for you to feel in a rut. Let life sparkle when you have free time, but don't neglect basics that may come to haunt you later.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) You are independent and may wish for more free time this friendly day. Activities will be more enjoyable if you get a headstart.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Some projects you plan today may be inappropriate for other family members. This may lead to misunderstandings and a feeling of being left out.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Shop, but hold off on the final pur-

chase of a big item until you investigate further. Get all the facts. Take the family along and eat out.

LIBRA (Sep. 23 to Oct. 22) Make a major domestic adjustment during this time while you are open to new ideas. Be vicious, sneak off to a romantic spot.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) The moon in your sign brings forth good judgment, intuition and sensuality. Enjoy yourself more with conservative activities.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) The earthy moon helps to test your diplomatic nature. Finances improve. Now do something fun that you have been putting off.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Home-improvement plans may temporarily be set aside. Trust intuition to deliver the best social variety and excitement.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) It may be necessary to compromise and to leave some hopes behind. The results will feel the same if you realize the positive cycle.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) A gossiper who has your ear is up to no good and should be avoided.

Evening plans will be exciting if you invite favorite friends.

Oxford-Cambridge boat race historic one

LONDON (AP) — With a woman directing each vessel and the biggest crewmen ever on board, Saturday's 135th Oxford-Cambridge University boat race will make history even before the first oar hits the River Thames.

Lawn still appeared to be

affected by wrist and back injuries suffered during training two weeks ago.

Five other riders had no such

problems. All broke the course

record.

The unsmiling American was

unhappy with his time but said his

new Honda machine was working

well.

After six successful years with

Yamaha, during which he won

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Education—China's biggest failure'

PEKING (R) — China's senior leader Deng Xiaoping has called education the nation's biggest failure in the last 10 years and his top official for education policy said any blame should be shared.

"We have calmly considered this and we believe that education is a bigger problem than inflation," the People's Daily Friday quoted Deng as saying.

"Our biggest mistake over the last 10 years has been the insufficient development of education," the newspaper quoted the 84-year-old leader as telling visiting Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni Thursday.

Li Tieying, head of the State Commission on Education, the top body overseeing educational policy, told reporters Friday that was an accurate assessment.

"Education is lagging behind other sectors," he said. "I have been involved in discussions on important questions but the plan is made collectively."

Western diplomats said Li's position was not in danger, but Deng has been trying to show that China faces a number of key problems and any blame must be shared.

If responsibility is shared for educational failures, Premier Li

Peng, a favourite of party hardliners and former head of the education commission, would also be at least partly to blame.

Communist chief Zhao Ziyang, a close associate of Deng, has been attacked by hardliners for his role in hardline economic reforms that have led to record inflation.

Delegates to the annual session of parliament, meeting in the Chinese capital, have bitterly protested against neglect of the nation's schools, particularly crumbling classrooms, lack of textbooks and poor pay for teachers.

"Young people think it's better to sell snacks on streetcorners than be a teacher," said An Yifu, a parliamentary delegate and university president in the southwestern city of Guiyang.

Universities have been unable to fill positions for graduate students and "as foolish as a graduate student" has become a popular term of derision.

China is short of cash and

cannot afford a huge increase in its educational spending. It will spend seven per cent more for what this year's budget lists as intellectual resources even though it expects a fourth consecutive year of deficits.

Health concerns

Deng reappeared in public Thursday after missing the opening session of parliament three days ago, and said he only wanted to preserve his health.

"I am not attending the current session of ... congress," Deng told visiting Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni. "I have asked for leave. I want to conserve my health and live longer," the official New China News Agency quoted him as saying.

Deng, 84, walked slowly as he greeted his guest at the Great Hall of the People, offering a prolonged handshake to let photographers capture the moment.

"Though I am old, I am alright," he said.

Deng described his absence as part of his effort to give younger leaders a more prominent role.

His work-day is usually confined to mornings.

now. What is more important is that I should gradually withdraw from the stage and let others preside over the work," he said.

Deng's failure to appear at the opening of the annual session of parliament prompted concern over his health.

He had last been seen in public, looking well, last Friday when he met Thai Prime Minister Chatichai Choonhavan for more than 90 minutes.

Deng's health is often the subject of wild rumours in Peking. While Communist Party chief Zhao Ziyang is Deng's designated heir, it is widely feared that the death of the senior leader would not be followed by a smooth succession.

Deng, the architect of China's reform programme begun 10 years ago, has gradually reduced his political role.

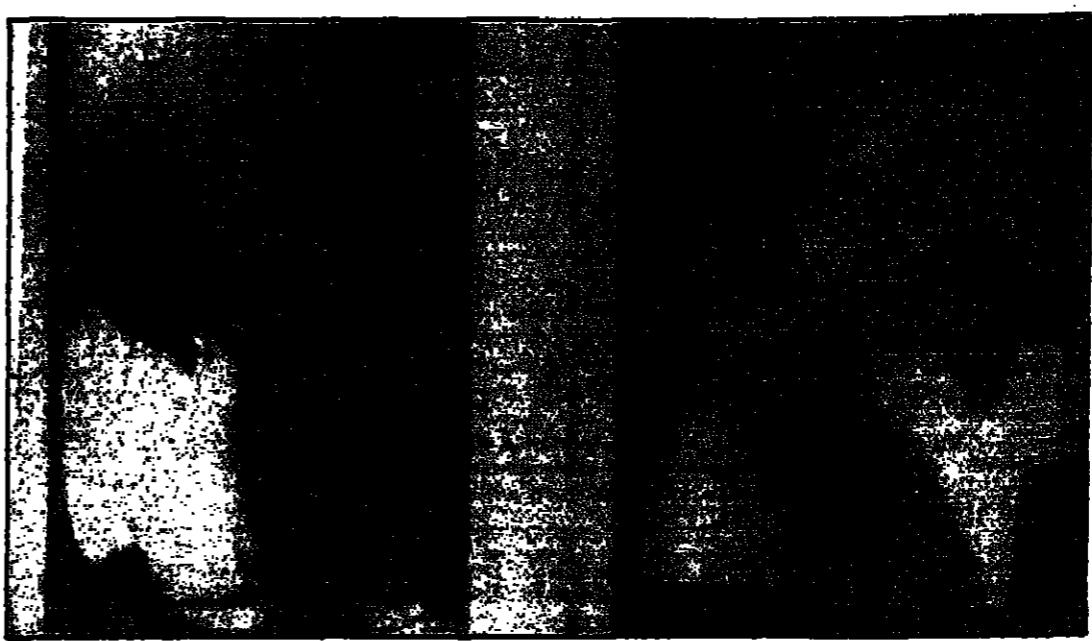
He stepped down from all but one of his leading Communist Party posts in 1987 as a step towards retirement. He retains control over the armed forces as chairman of the party's Central Military Commission.

Sandile Thusi, in serious condition at Saint Aidan's hospital in Durban, has conducted the longest fast of any of the estimated 600 detainees who have staged hunger strikes of varying lengths since January to demand their freedom.

Thousands of people have been detained without trial since a state of emergency was declared in South Africa in 1986.

The government says it has authorised the release of 580 detainees, but human rights groups say several hundred others remain held without charge.

About 1,000 people, including anti-apartheid leaders and diplo-



Three South African students waved and a fourth defected from inside the West German embassy in Pretoria, where they demanded the release of political detainees. The four, also detainees left the embassy Wednesday after the government granted them their freedom.

S. Africans protest detentions

DURBAN (AP) — About 1,000 people, many holding crosses, marched Friday through central Durban to protest detentions in South Africa, and several marchers paid an unauthorised visit to a hospitalised detainee in a 35-day-old hunger strike.

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About 1,000 people, including anti-apartheid leaders and diplo-

mats from the U.S. and West German consulates, attended an early morning Good Friday service at a Methodist Church held in solidarity with the detainees.

The hunger strikers "are being crucified for the truth," said the Reverend Wilfred Napier, president of the Southern African Catholic Bishops Conference, said at the service. "They are suffering for their God-given rights.

After the ecumenical service, the crowd marched through the port city's business district to an Anglican Church. The procession was led by two men hauling a large wooden cross and by 70 other people carrying smaller crosses.

Some of the protesters then delivered flowers to Saint Aidan's Hospital for Thusi and about 10 of the marchers walked past police guards into his room, where they began singing an anti-apartheid anthem before being evicted.

A church worker at Saint Aidan's told reporters that Thusi was in good spirits and said a police officer had hinted to the officer, "You'll be a happy man on Tuesday."

Thusi, a 26-year-old university researcher, reportedly has lost 26 kilograms, or about one-third of his weight, during his fast to protest his nine-month detention without trial.

Airport security tightens after U.S. hijack warning

WASHINGTON (R) — The U.S. Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has warned airlines, airports and embassies of a possible hijacking plot in Europe, setting off a massive tightening of security.

Pan American World Airways, which had a jetliner blown out of the skies over Scotland last December in a bombing that killed 270 people, said Thursday it had received the latest warning "and taken appropriate action."

A Pan Am spokeswoman, Pamela Hanlon, told Reuters in New York: "We have increased vigilance to address the subject of the warning."

A government official in Washington who declined to be identified said Thursday that the warning was issued to senior officials in U.S. embassies in Europe for passing on to airports and law enforcement agencies there.

"No time frame was mentioned," for the date of the hijacking, the official said, denying

Shorty after, a bomb exploded

aboard Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland, killing 270 people.

A State Department official said embassies had since been reminded that such postings are inappropriate.

The alert comes at a time of controversy over the handling of warnings before the Dec. 21 bombing of the Pan Am flight.

In Britain the Labour Party has accused Transport Secretary Paul Channon of failing to pass on to airlines detailed intelligence warnings about a bomb hidden in a radio-cassette player until after the jet, flying from London to New York, was blown up.

Lawyers for the families of Britons killed in the disaster said Wednesday they were preparing to sue the airline and two subsidiaries in the United States, where Pan Am is based.

They said they would claim for each of their 300 clients at least the \$100,000 already offered as compensation by Pan Am and might sue for punitive damages.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Ships ignored Vietnam SOS

TOKYO (AP) — Three nearby vessels ignored distress calls from a Japanese tanker trying to rescue Vietnamese from their boat, which capsized and sank in the South China Sea March 8, killing 130 people, the ship's captain said. "We radioed a mayday call to three large vessels between three and five nautical miles from our ship, but there was no response," the tanker's captain, Yasuo Kawamura, wrote in his log. A copy of the log was made available Friday to the AP. Spokesman Kazuhiro Numata said the Maritime Safety Agency was investigating the accident, the latest in a series involving Vietnamese fleeing political repression and economic hardship in their homeland.

Zuckerman's group studied 1,226 mothers and their infants at a pre-natal clinic at Boston City Hospital. Twenty-seven per cent or 331 of the women had used marijuana during pregnancy and 18 per cent or 216 had used cocaine on the basis of a urine assay, interview or both, the study said.

Women who tested positive for marijuana had babies who weighed 79 grammes less than infants of women who had not used marijuana.

Convict and a key suspect in the kidnapping, Haemers escaped from a prison transport truck Aug. 13, 1987 and remains at large. Vander Elst was taken in for questioning Thursday and Friday he was formally charged with kidnapping, extortion, forgery and conspiracy, the officials said. They said Haemers' father and brother were also being questioned Friday, but that they had not been charged immediately with any crime. Vander Elst is the second suspect under arrest. The first suspect, identified as Basri Bajrami, was arrested in Metz, France, last month and is to be extradited to Belgium, according to police.

Laos campaigning ends

VIENTIANE, Laos (AP) — Campaigning ended Friday for an unprecedented national election

Sunday that one government official called a step toward "socialist democracy" in Communist-ruled Laos. Citizens of the poor, landlocked

southeast Asian nation will choose among 121 candidates contesting the 79 seats of the Supreme People's Council, the highest state body. The council comprised 45 appointed officials when it was established Dec. 2, 1975, when the Communist Party took power after a struggle with the U.S.-backed government in Vientiane.

Residents of Corsica, hit by separatist violence for the past 20 years, say rents and food and petrol prices are far higher than on the mainland.

Previous reports on cocaine use

have been parts of relatively small studies among women addicted to drugs, making it difficult to identify the independent effects of cocaine, Bauchner said.

Some previous reports show marijuana affects the fetus while others show no effect because the drug is illegal and pregnant women may be reluctant to report they are using it.

"If we relied only on self-reporting, or interviews, we would have found no association between poor foetal growth and marijuana use," said Zuckerman.

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